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DKL suggestion box: who was Christopher A. Buckley?

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ALL HANDS

THE BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL INFORMATION BULLETIN

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This magazine is intended
for 10 readers. All should
see it as soon as possible.

Supersonic Skyrocket

To exceed the speed of sound is getting to be a routine thing to the Navy's Douglas D-558 *Skyrocket*, which is propelled by both jet and rocket power.

As part of a research program devoted to extremely high speed flight, the Navy's supersonic *Skyrocket* has been averaging nearly one flight a week for more than a year. With civilian test pilots at the controls, the *Skyrocket* has gone through many tests. Their performance has exceeded the requirements originally laid down.

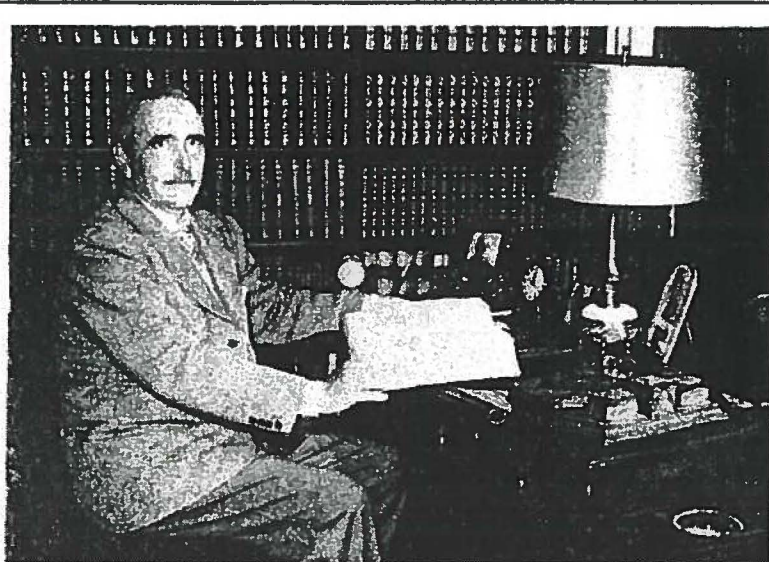
The Navy *Skyrocket* is the second model involved in the research project known as D-558. Its predecessor, the *Skystreak*, has been valuable in assembling data at speeds in the subsonic range. In its flights at Muroc Dry Lake, near El Segundo, Calif., the *Skyrocket* has used its rocket engines for an added thrust in reaching supersonic speeds and, in most cases, for assistance in taking off. Some flights were made with jato units instead of rocket power providing the added boost at take-off.

The *Skyrocket* is being used in investigations of flight problems up to the 40,000-foot level. At the same time, some of the fastest runs have been made at only 30 feet above the ground. Altogether, the Navy project has provided approximately 5,000 items of scientific data to the U. S. armed forces.

Like the highly valuable and accurate piece of laboratory equipment that it is, the *Skyrocket* is handled very carefully — on the ground as well as in the air. The people who maintain the plane have a special trailer which serves as a mother-ship and mechanical wet-nurse for the pampered and often-hungry machine.

The trailer is 13 feet wide and 35 feet long. Its after end lowers to the ground to permit the plane to be pulled aboard with ease by winches provided. Provision for fueling is included on the trailer, as well as fire fighting equipment for instant use in an emergency. There is even a pressurized shower for use by maintenance men should they be accidentally splashed with easily ignited fuel.

The *Skyrocket* is reported to have flown satisfactorily in all respects while piercing the critical "sonic barrier" — while accelerating, that is, from sub-sonic speeds to those above the speed of sound. Total *Skyrockets* built are three, along with an equal number of *Skystreaks*.



MAGNIFICENT 2400-volume collection of naval lore, including histories and references, was donated to the Navy by Mr. Christopher A. Buckley.

Extensive Naval Library Donated to Navy

Approximately 2,400 books and pamphlets on naval subjects, including many rare and expensive items, have been given to the Navy Department by a man whose interest in the Navy was inspired by the sea stories of his tutor, a lieutenant commander.

The collection, gathered over a period of nearly 30 years by Mr. Christopher A. Buckley of Pebble Beach, Calif., will become a part of the library of the Naval General Line School, Monterey, Calif.

Included in the collection are volumes covering the British Navy from 1550 to the present, the U. S. Navy from 1780 to the present, and various data on Russian, Japanese, French and Italian navies.

Among more than 100 rare books are Samuel Pepys' *Memoires of the Royal Navy*, dated 1690, and the report of Perry's visit to Japan in 1853 which included a plate, later suppressed, showing Japanese bathing customs.

James Fenimore Cooper's two-volume work *History of the Navy of the United States of America*, published in 1840, and a curious account entitled *Human Jettison*, by Frederick C. Hicks, telling the story of 25 persons being thrown overboard to lighten a boat, are among prized possessions of the collection.

The donor was tutored in early youth by Lieutenant Commander

Richard P. Hooker, usn, and early acquired an interest in the Navy. The tutor was the author of a book entitled *Lucky Bags*, which his youthful student read.

In World War I Mr. Buckley received a commission and served at sea in the Naval Overseas Transport Service and later as commanding officer of a sub chaser.

In 1920 he began collecting books on naval subjects, a project which he has continued over a period of nearly 30 years. Reading is his favorite pastime, taking up about six hours a day.

The donation is a real "reader's library," comprised of books which would appeal to men looking for the drama and romance in naval history rather than an academic discussion of reference facts that a research worker or professional scholar might be interested in.

The library of the Naval General Line School was selected by the donor as the most appropriate to receive his collection, inasmuch as he considers the collection to be of most interest to officers past the undergraduate level of education. The Monterey school will eventually become the seat of all the Navy's postgraduate officer training. The move of the U. S. Naval Postgraduate School from Annapolis, Md., to Monterey is scheduled to be completed before 1954.